

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cell-free system for predicting the cellular activity of an agent comprising:

a probe molecule selected from the group consisting of organic dyes, and having a representative spectrum at a given band of wavelengths;

the agent selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial compounds effective against at least one microbe selected from the group consisting of *S. marcescens*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *C. albicans*, and *F. solani*;

a source of light radiation that includes the band of wavelengths;

a detector capable of detecting a change in the spectrum of a solution comprising a complex formed by said probe molecule and said agent, wherein said solution has a pH greater than 5.0; and

data correlating the spectral change with a reduction in the number of live microbes when treated with the agent;

wherein said agent is not benzalkonium chloride.

2. (CANCELLED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the agent is not benzalkonium chloride.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the probe molecule is Eosin Y.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the probe molecule is effective to dye Gram positive organisms.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a calibration graph that includes the data.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a test vessel that includes a multi-purpose solution comprising the agent.
8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein said complex comprises ionic compounds.
9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the detector is a human eye.
10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the agent is polymeric.
- 11 - 44. (CANCELLED)